

BRIEFS

TRUMP SETS POLICY ON TRANS TROOPS

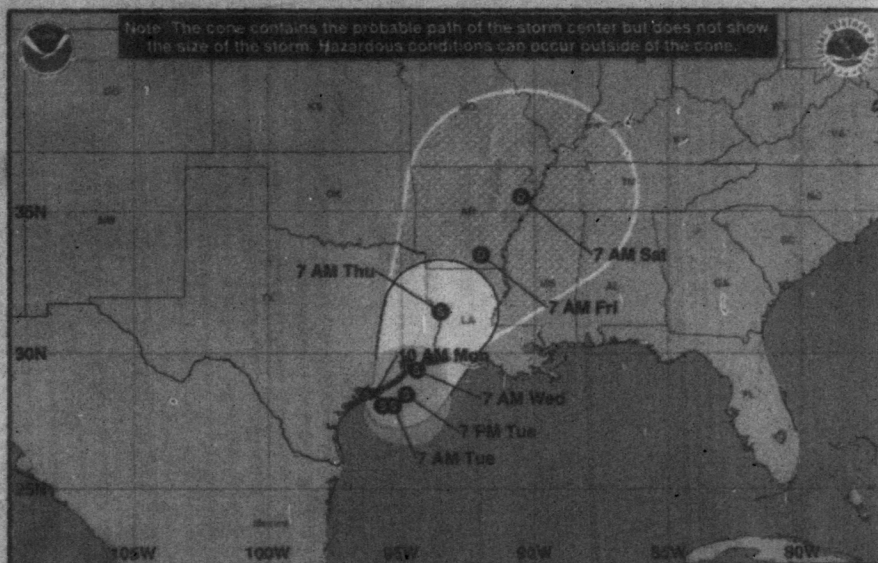
WASHINGTON (BP) — U.S. President Donald Trump, following through on an earlier promise, has formally directed the U.S. Armed Forces to "return to the longstanding policy" of precluding transgender individuals from military service. He also halted the use of government funds to pay for gender reassignment surgery for military personnel, "except to the extent necessary to protect the health of an individual who has already begun a course of treatment to reassign his or her sex." Estimates of the total number of transgender troops range from just over 1,000 to more than 10,000.

MARIJUANA TOURISM RESORT ANNOUNCED

NIPTON, Calif. (BP) — A cannabis company's plan to turn a 20-resident Southern California town into a marijuana-focused tourism destination has prompted two local Baptist associations to make it a destination for missions too. This month, the cannabis company American Green Inc. announced it is purchasing the entire 80-acre town of Nipton, Ca., about 60 miles southwest of Las Vegas, and said it will develop Nipton into a "first-of-its-kind, eco-tourism experience for conscious cannabis consumers," CNN reported.

50-YARD LINE PRAYERS NOT CONSTITUTIONAL

BREMERTON, Wash. (BP) — Former high school football coach Joe Kennedy lost his appeal Aug. 23 at the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which ruled he did not have a right to pray at the 50-yard line after games. A three-judge panel said Kennedy's prayers did not amount to constitutionally protected free speech because he was acting as a public employee when he offered them. Judge Milan Smith, appointed by Republican former President George W. Bush, wrote that Kennedy "took advantage of his position" to push his faith on "impressionable and captive minds."



Harvey response under way

Miss. Baptist Disaster Relief prepped for deployment when Texas officials issue request

HOUSTON (BP and local reports) — Mississippi Baptists are preparing to join the Hurricane Harvey response and recovery effort in the Houston, Texas, area where news outlets have reported an unprecedented 11 trillion gallons of rainwater are

on the ground with much more expected by the end of the week.

Officials declared 62 counties to be disaster areas. More than 300,000 customers were without electrical service.

Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief (MBDR), a ministry

of the Men's Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), issued a statement Aug. 28 reporting that the unit's large feeding unit is being prepared for deployment when word comes from Texas Baptist disaster relief officials.

"Affected state Baptist conventions coordinate disaster response in their respective states," the MBDR statement explained. "MBDR does

see HARVEY on p. 6

Homicide is cause of death in KY church

SOMERSET, Ky. (BP) — The widow of the founding pastor of Denham Street Church in Somerset, Ky., found dead Aug. 24 in the fellowship hall of the church, was murdered, according to the county coroner.

The body of Carolyn Elliott New, identified in news reports as Ruthie Carolyn New, was discovered by the church's current pastor Jeffrey Griffith about 30 minutes after family members reported her missing.



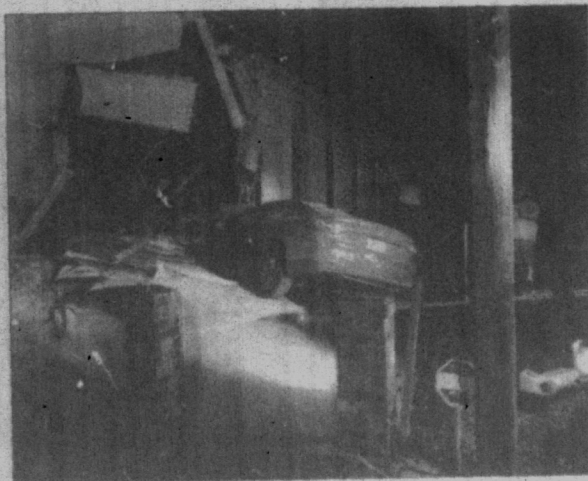
NEW

Pulaski County Coroner Clyde Strunk said an Aug. 25 autopsy confirmed New's death was a homicide, reported WTVQ-TV in Louisville, Ky.

"We knew that this was something that was an act of violence, that was aggressively done, and that put everything into a different mode," Strunk told WTVQ. "When we see these kinds of hideous crimes, it makes us back up and realize that we're living in troubled times."

see HOMICIDE on p. 7

Miss. church damaged in high-speed chase



A driver allegedly fleeing police in a high-speed chase in the early morning hours of Aug. 28 demolished a corner of the antebellum sanctuary at Old Silver Creek Church in Lawrence County, according to pastor Micah Rutland. The driver reportedly sustained minor injuries in the 2:30 a.m. crash but was able to escape and was later captured by Lawrence County sheriff's deputies. There were no other injuries, Rutland said. "It's a shame to see such a beautiful historic building damaged in this way, but we know that people are more important than buildings and damage such as this can be repaired," the pastor said. The congregation was established in 1814.

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From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

Bad case of laryngitis

There's a segment of Mississippi's political and business establishments that have been strangely silent for the past several years. They've apparently been hiding under their desks as the weak state budget exposed their lies to the people.

Remember when we were told a little legalized gambling on a few riverboats would solve all our money problems? Remember when we were told the small gambling venues hadn't actually solved all our problems after all, but allowing massive, permanent structures over water would? Remember when we were told the multi-billion-dollar casinos over the water weren't enough to solve our problems, but allowing them to creep on to dry land would?

The Mississippi Miracle, also known to proponents as the Gambling Revolution, turned out to be neither a miracle nor a revolution.

The gamblers, who were always about transferring as much money out of Mississippi as possible anyway, have begun to high-tail it out of the state. Once-gleaming casino complexes have closed from Tunica to the Gulf Coast, taking all those promised jobs with them—at least the mostly lower-level jobs that actually did materialize.

Members of Mississippi's gambling/political complex apparently began to realize they had led the citizens of Mississippi on a chase for fool's gold. They lost their voices rather quickly.

One has to wonder where all of them are today. They haven't been on television lately, trying to convince us that legalized gambling is an economic panacea. They haven't been on radio talk shows, arguing that we should have gambling because everyone else has it. They're not writing op-ed pieces in the newspapers defending their point of view.

Oh, wait. That's right. Now they're lifting up a state lottery to spive all our financial woes.

Legalized alcohol didn't do it. Casino gambling didn't do it. On-shore gambling didn't do it. Fantasy sports gambling isn't doing it. Somehow, though, a lottery is going to save us.

We are awash in legalized gambling and all the social ills that go hand-in-hand with it. What we don't have are the economic benefits we were promised. Meanwhile, the human toll continues to mount as the mass addictive behavior that defines legalized gambling takes its toll on the good citizens of this state.

Embezzlement and theft are rife. No company or charity or institution is safe where gambling is legal. That's a provable fact. The list of fallen Mississippians includes lawyers, bankers, teachers, law enforcement officers, and others who could not resist the lure of one of the most addictive activities known to man.

It should also be noted that all the crimes committed in the name of gambling are not "soft" crimes like embezzlement. At least one elderly woman was murdered in her home for gambling money. A couple was slaughtered in a casino elevator for their winnings. Armed bank robbers go from the scene of their crimes straight to casinos, where they gamble away their ill-gotten gain in a matter of minutes.

Serious crimes committed in casino parking lots are too numerous to list, but include leaving children to shiver in cars in freezing weather as their parents gamble away the family food money inside.

All of this is happening in Mississippi, where we were assured by our political and business leaders that all the known social ills of legalized gambling would be tolerable given the unlimited amount of money that would come rolling in. The truth had to come out sooner or later, though.

The truth about the proposed state lottery will eventually be known, too. Just pray that it won't be too late this time.

A Monumental Decision

In 1984, the Hadaway family attended the Southern Baptist Convention missionary orientation at Callaway Gardens in Georgia. During our first weekend we encountered Klu Klux Klansmen in their "dress whites" handing out literature. This shocked us because we were soon travelling to Tanzania to begin 18 years of service in Africa and South America.

I was distressed by the recent events in Charlottesville. All of us condemn the Klu Klux Klan, White Nationalism, and Nazism. I remember the separate restrooms, water fountains, and lunch counters while growing up in Tallahassee, FL. The "whites only" policy hit home when our star basketball player had to stay with the janitor instead of a hotel with our team. I told my parents, "that's not right."

I am ethnically inclusive. I served as the pastor of a Baptist church in a Chinese majority city in Los Angeles County. My son is married to a sweet Russian girl. As missionaries, my family always belonged to African churches. I have camped, shared drinking vessels, and eaten from communal plates with my African colleagues. I am still fairly fluent in Swahili.

During a trip to Ethiopia this summer, I toured the national museum. I was surprised to see a picture of former president Mengistu Mariam in a prominent place with Ethiopia's past leaders. From 1977-1991, tens of thousands were killed and Mengistu was convicted of genocide. I asked why his picture was there. The guide replied, "He is part of our history."

This past week the discussion about Charlottesville has moved on to a debate about Confederate monuments. On August 17, the Governor of Virginia and the Mayor of Richmond, Va., called for the removal of the Civil War statues along Monument Avenue near the International Mission Board (IMB). I lived in Richmond two different years while I served in the IMB administration.

On July 10, 1996, a statue of African American Richmond native and tennis player, Arthur Ashe, was unveiled along Monument Avenue. Controversial at the time, this was a genuine attempt at compromise. Is this not a better solution—building new monuments rather than tearing down old ones? Yes, the Southern states were on the wrong side of history—but it is still part of our history.

What does the future hold? Will slave owners such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Ben Franklin lose



Guest opinion
with Robin Hadaway

their statues and their pictures on the one, two, and hundred dollar bills, respectively? Should we abolish daylight savings time because Ben Franklin invented it?

On October 7, 2015, University of Missouri students called for the removal of a statue of Thomas Jefferson on their campus. Jefferson is the founder of the University of Virginia at Charlottesville and a very large statue of him stands in the university rotunda on their campus. Interestingly, the Jefferson statue does not offend Virginia students in Charlottesville but is an affront to Missouri students in Columbia. That's just the point: taking offense is arbitrary. What's offensive to one is not to another and vice versa. America seems to be sliding toward a personalized, selective view of history.

In 1935, Thomas Hart Benton was commissioned by the Missouri House of Representatives to produce a mural about the history of Missouri. The painting depicts traders, trappers, and wagon trains going west. Benton, however, also included slavery, prostitution, and gambling, and drew African-Americans sympathetically. The Missouri legislature despised it. Representatives extinguished their cigars on the painting. One made a motion to whitewash the mural altogether. Fortunately, reason prevailed and Benton's mural remains in Jefferson City (Yes, that Jefferson) despite attempts to destroy it in the 1930's.

Rather than attempting to whitewash or topple the past we should learn from the Ethiopians. Although they dislike parts of their history, these Africans are facing the future by learning from the mistakes of their former leaders. We should do no less.

Hadaway, a former Mississippi resident, is professor of missions at Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. He is the great-great grandson of a sharpshooter in the Mississippi Militia during the Civil War. He may be contacted at rhadaway@mbs.edu. Edited for style.

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U.S.S. Indianapolis discovery finally brings closure

CLARKSVILLE, Tn. (BP and local reports) — When Edgar Harrell learned about the recovery of the U.S. Navy cruiser whose sinking he survived 72 years ago, his first reaction was, "Praise the Lord!"

"I'm so excited," Harrell, now age 92, told Baptist Press. "It kind of brings closure."

The U.S.S. Indianapolis' discovery was announced Aug. 19 by billionaire entrepreneur Paul Allen, co-founder of Microsoft, whose research ship located the wreckage 3.5 miles below the surface of the Philippines Sea.

The Indianapolis was sunk by Japanese torpedoes on July 30, 1945, after delivering the contents of the famous "Little Boy" atomic bomb to the western Pacific island of Tinian during the closing days of World War II. The bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan, on Aug. 6, 1945, helping to hasten the end of the bloody conflict.

Harrell, a 20-year-old U.S. Marine corporal at the time, was among 317 survivors out of a 1,200-member crew. Some 900 sailors and Marines made it off the sinking ship, but most died during four and a half harrowing days afloat in the ocean.

Shark attacks and dehydration were among the leading causes of death. Survivors subsisted thanks in part to rain water and a drifting crate of rotten potatoes.

Though a distress signal was sounded as the Indianapolis sank, it either didn't get out or wasn't received. The survivors were rescued only after a U.S. bomber happened upon them during a patrol. The sunken ship's precise location had been a mystery for seven decades.

"The discovery of the Indianapolis brings back a lot



IN BETTER DAYS — The U.S.S. Indianapolis is pictured shortly after its christening and before it was sunk by a Japanese torpedo in 1945 during World War II. The ship had been on a secret mission to ferry atomic bomb parts to a base in the Pacific war zone, where the bombs were assembled that were used on Hiroshima and Nagasaki to end World War II. (CBS News screen grab by BP)

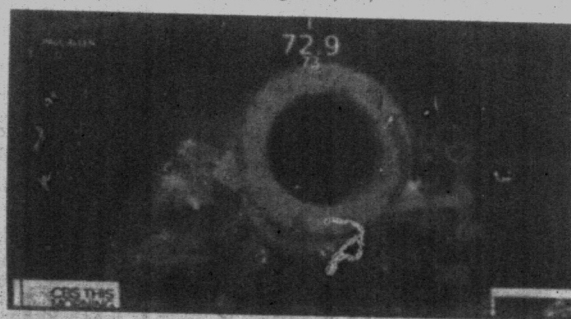


HARRELL, THEN AND NOW

of memories," said Harrell, a Clarksville, Tn., resident and member of Calvary Bible Church in Joelton. "...When I was leaving the ship, I was praying and I knew the Lord was hearing but I was hoping and praying that somehow I could survive what was ahead of me."

Harrell had received Christ as his Lord and Savior two years earlier.

He told Baptist Press (BP) in 2009 that he made it through the four and a half days at sea thanks to prayer, Scripture quotation, and thinking of his family. He also recounted



72 YEARS LATER — A team assembled by Microsoft co-founder and entrepreneur Paul Allen used an unmanned submarine to capture images of the U.S.S. Indianapolis, which sunk in 1945 during World War II. The Indianapolis delivered critical components of an atomic bomb to a base in the western Pacific before succumbing to a Japanese torpedo attack while on its way back from that secret mission. (CBS News screen grab by BP)

pulling his feet up in the water to avoid shark attacks and feeling shark fins brush past his body at times.

The Indianapolis' precise location remains classified, CBS News reported. Allen's team, which used an un-

manned submarine to locate the wreckage, plans to conduct a live tour of the ship's remains in the coming weeks and is working with the U.S. Navy to honor the 18 remaining survivors who are still alive.

Since the discovery was announced, Harrell said he "can't get away" from his computer and phone for all the media interview requests and other contacts. He has been interviewed over the past week by CBS News, The Washington Post, C-SPAN Radio, and other outlets.

He told The Post the discovery "brings closure to the story. But the experience that we survived, the trauma that we felt, that still exists."

Harrell told BP God used the protracted suffering at sea as a catalyst for spiritual growth. "All things work together for good to those who love and honor Him. I look back and have to say, 'Lord, I wonder what might have happened to me had I not had that kind of an experience those four and a half days, but had just been picked up the next hour or so and then just passed it over as a little, short incident that happened.'"

Harrell chronicled his experience with the Indianapolis in the 2005 book, *Out of the Depths*, coauthored with his son David, pastor of Calvary Bible Church.

The elder Harrell maintains an active speaking schedule, sharing his testimony with audiences around the nation.

"Lord," Harrell said he prays, "I know that sooner or later I'm going to meet You face to face and be able to thank You so much for so many, many things that have transpired to Your praise and honor and glory."

Ronnie Floyd tapped for National Day of Prayer top post

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (BP) — Ronnie Floyd, immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention and senior pastor of multi-campus Cross Church in northwest Aransas, has been appointed president of the National Day of Prayer Task Force, the organization announced Aug. 22.

"In this desperate and urgent hour when turmoil and division is evident in America and security threats are being made



FLOYD

against America, it is imperative that we do all we can right now to mobilize unified public prayer for America," Floyd wrote in a blog post.

"America's greatest need today is to experience the next Great Spiritual Awakening. We know that no great movement of God ever occurs that is not preceded by the extraordinary prayer of God's people," he wrote.

As National Day of Prayer president, Floyd will oversee mobilization of individuals, churches, denominations, and organizations to participate in ongoing prayer for America, culminating in the annual National Day of Prayer emphasis

in May, according to a news release sent on behalf of Floyd.

He will continue as senior pastor of Cross Church.

Congress established National Day of Prayer in 1952, and a 1988 law designated the first Thursday in May as a national day of prayer. In 2017, some two million people participated in more than 30,000 events in all 50 states, the release stated.

The role of president is new for the National Day of Prayer Task Force. Previously, leadership came from the office of chairman, a role filled since May 2016 by Anne Graham Lotz, National Day of Prayer board chairman Dave Butts told BP in a statement.

With input from Lotz and others, the board developed the office of president. Though the board asked Lotz to continue serving through May 2018, she "felt like she had accomplished what the Lord called her to do" and "wanted to give Dr. Floyd the freedom to give direction to this powerful movement of prayer," Butts said.

In the news release, Butts called Floyd "a leader with unique calling."

"As we step into a new phase of carrying this mission and legacy," Butts said, "I believe we couldn't have found a man more passionate or dedicated to prayer and

spiritual awakening than Ronnie Floyd. Throughout his life, he has demonstrated he is a leader with a unique calling to lead others to unify together to pray for our nation and the need of spiritual awakening.

"America is blessed to have him as the new president of the National Day of Prayer."

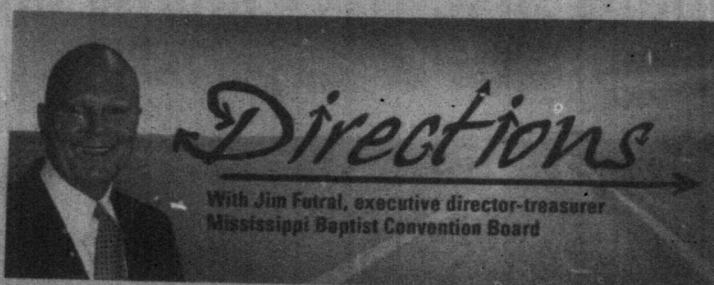
A post on the National Day of Prayer Task Force's website stated the Colorado-based ministry experienced "a period of transition" leading up to Floyd's appointment and that he will "build on [the] legacy" of National Day of Prayer leaders like Vonette Bright, Shirley Dobson, and Lotz.

We are heading into the transitional period from summer to fall during which all of nature seems to participate, including all of the birds of the air. They're moving about and changing their location and migrating to wherever they are supposed to be. Recently as I was heading out to walk in the pre-dawn hours, I passed a home where there was a flock of bluebirds in the front yard. I saw them before I got there and stayed some distance away so they wouldn't fly away. There were eight or ten or twelve bluebirds all around on the front yard.

At least that's what I thought I saw, and walked on believing they must be in migration and must have found some seeds on some grass there in that yard that really appealed to them. I turned around and headed back home, and I came to the same yard and the same flock of bluebirds. The sun had crept over the horizon by this time and I could see more clearly. It was not a yard filled with bluebirds. It wasn't any kind of bird. It was a whole bunch of those blue flags that mark the pathway of some underground utility, and they were all over the yard.

I stopped and stared at the flags that were only some minutes ago bluebirds in my mind. I had enjoyed seeing them on the first pass and thought about them as I walked fifteen or twenty more minutes away from that yard and then turned and came back, thinking about how many other wonderful, beautiful things I was going to see throughout the day — only to realize the bluebirds were brightly-colored blue flags.

Before you conclude I can't see, or I'm drugged up when I go out to walk in the morning, let me remind you that it was dark on my first pass. It was real dark. It was pre-dawn. The sun hadn't even announced that it was coming. I was trying to see without the benefit of any light and those flags sure looked to me like bluebirds. The



A Flock of Bluebirds

Apostle Paul came to my mind when he wrote that wonderful, inspirational book to the church at Philippi, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Phil. 4:8).

Paul reaches into his spiritual pocket book and takes out a whole treasure of things that he says to us. You need to keep your heart focused on those kinds of things. If you took Philippians 4:8 and put it alongside activities such as watching TV all day, or listening to news, or watching the 24-hour cable news channels, you might be hard pressed to ever find any of those "whatsoevers" of good things mentioned — things that are true, honest, pure, of good report. When you find those things, you need to capture them and hold tight to them.

I mention this because we live in a dark world, a world that does affect our sight. Sometimes our eyes are spiritually blurred, blocked by the

darkness, or broken by the grief that we may be experiencing. Still, there are those people, experiences, opportunities, and encounters with God where we can find things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely. They are still around us. Even in the darkness of this world, you can see them.

It occurred to me that maybe, just maybe, I saw bluebirds because that's what I wanted to see. Maybe I'd seen other birds that were beginning their migration and thought, "Boy, what beautiful, indigo-colored birds these are," because I really do want to see the good and the right and the just and the noble and all of those kinds of things upon which God would have us to focus. My heart wanted to see the bluebirds, whether my eyes could see them properly or not.

I wish I was always optimistic, but I'm not. I wish my heart didn't have the tendency to sometimes be cynical, but it does. I wish I was able to see the beauty of God's creative genius in a bluebird every time I saw a flock of sparrows, but I don't. By the encouragement of the Apostle Paul and the impulses of the Spirit of God, I do seek to accomplish

what is in the latter part of Philippians 4:8. Think on these things. Keep your mind focused that way so even later in your walk when you discover they weren't bluebirds after all, you don't lose anything and you still enjoy what you thought you saw that was good and right and beautiful.

It's that way in life, that we often see what we want to see. There are people who are able to do that, often because they have walked with God and listened to His word in their hearts. They see the good even in the bad. By the same token, they may see the bad and extract good from it. I wish I was that way — would prefer to be like that — and maybe seeing bluebirds in the pre-dawn is an indication that I'm making some progress. I'm sure I'm making progress in the sense that later in the day, I actually saw a bluebird. Not a flock of them, just one. I thought about all the bluebirds that solitary bluebird could have joined that morning if he had just come to that yard.

One other thought I would like to throw out to you: Then and now, even in the sunlight of the morning, when I saw flags were out there in the front yard I remembered bluebirds. It was the bluebirds and not the blue flags that went with me throughout the day that created positive things for me to think about and brought joy to my heart. I think if you listen to the Apostle Paul you would find that when you think on these things, he goes on in the very next verse to say, "Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you" (Phil. 4:9). So He shall. Even in the light, you see the good of what He showed you in the dimness of the night and you can remember to carry in the depths of your heart.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

Just for the Record



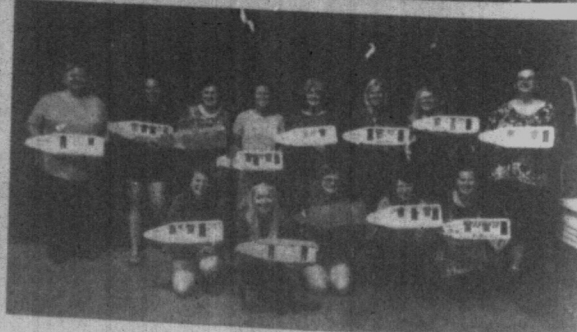
The ladies of **WANILLA CHURCH, MONTICELLO**, took pastor's wife Ruthie Vosbrink to a dinner and a movie as a pastor's wife appreciation celebration outing.

Representatives of **GILLSBURG CHURCH, GILLSBURG**, who attended camp at Judson Baptist Retreat are Rhonda Clark, Hailey Leuthauser, Dally Holmes, Kaylee Holmes, Lacie Clark, Jorja Easley, and Belinda Clark.



SILOAM CHURCH, MEADVILLE, recently honored Emory May after he received his Doctor of Theology Degree from Newburgh Seminary on June 10. May is pictured with his wife, Carol, who created a display depicting their ministry journey of over 50 years as pastor, author, missionaries, and director of missions.

HARMONY CHURCH, WINSTON ASSOCIATION, hosted a WMU craft party July 2.



What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light, and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

August 31, 2017

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services

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Pastor/Leadership Development

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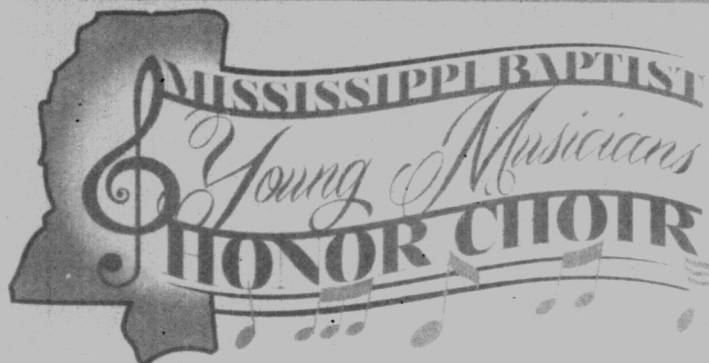


PAGE HUGHES
Speaker

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For more information, contact Vesta Clary
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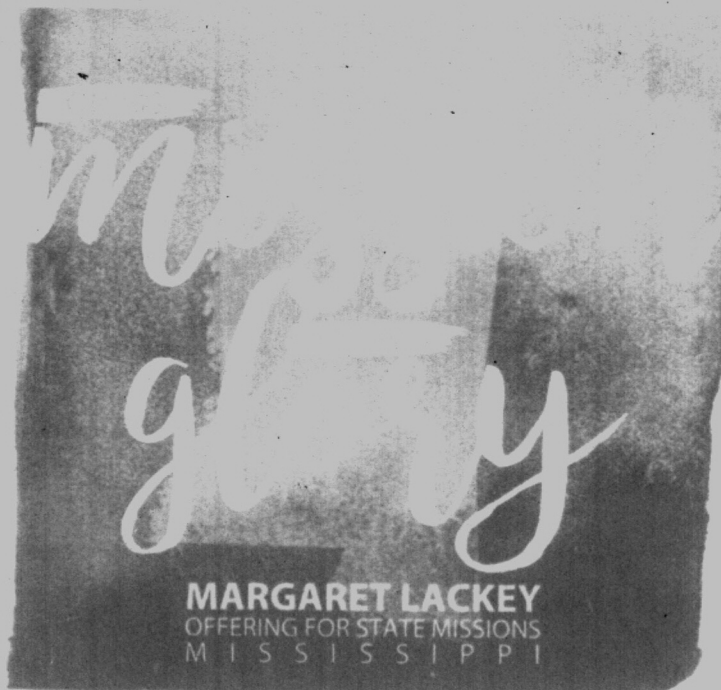


SAVE THE DATE: April 21-22, 2018

Mississippi Baptist Young Musicians Honor Choir auditions begin August 1, 2017. These video auditions may be submitted by: email, snail mail, Dropbox or text.

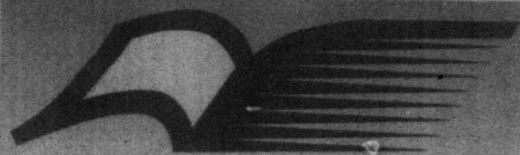
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We are very excited to have Ramona Bridges as this year's guest author. A life-long resident of Mississippi, Ramona lets her Christian faith shine through and uses her writings to inspire others to trust in God and have hope when life's troubles seem insurmountable. She will share her testimony along with her latest adventure. Each one of you will personally meet Ramona as she signs her latest books for you.

Complete Communication Services 2500 45-7611 ext. 371 or
email info@mbcb.org for more information.

Merry Christmas!

to pastors in the Baptist Convention of New York through the Suit Project ministry.

Every year we seek to bless pastors and their wives with gifts, sending pastors new suits and their wives gift cards. This ministry has been blessing ministers and their families since 1963. Join in making the holidays even more special for these ministers by giving to the suit project. Donations to this ministry can be a rewarding fundraising project for any group in your church: Royal Ambassadors, Girls in Action, YWU, Men's Ministry, VBS, or youth.

To make donations, or for more information, contact the Men's Ministry Department of the MBCB at 800-748-1651, Ext. 335, 601-292-3335, or e-mail dval@mbcb.org.



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Pray this day for...

September 1 - September 14, 2017

"praying at all times in the Spirit... To that end keep alert with perseverance, making supplication for all the saints..."

Ephesians 6:18 (ESV)

Pray for: **Eugenia & Tracy Putnam**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting.

Pray for: **John & Deborah Royals**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through regional office support, church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Jonathan & Bethany Sharp**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting & community outreach/encounter.

Pray for: **George & Geraldine Smith**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church planting & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Thomas & Janna Smith**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church planting & regional office support.

Pray for: **Karl & Peggy Wallace**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through mission administration & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **David & Regina White**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church planting & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Floyd & Sylvia Wingo**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination.

Pray for: **Charles & Shannon Worthy**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through community outreach/encounter.

Pray for: **James & Mary Adair**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church planting & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Bethany Allen**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through community outreach/encounter.

Pray for: **Richard & Martha Beal**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through financial administration & church/home outreach evangelism.

[UN]distracted

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HOUSE TOPS

Bible journaling draws practitioners closer to God

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. (BP) — Dawn Rush was horrified when her teenage daughter Ashley started drawing in her Bible.

"She was writing all over the Word of God," said Rush, who attends New Vision Church in Murfreesboro, Tenn. "She kept asking me to paint in her Bible. That gave me panic attacks."

Treating Scripture as a canvas wasn't a sign of disrespect by her daughter, Rush discovered. Instead, it helped Ashley connect with God as she overcame severe depression.

"I was wrong. She had more respect for the Word than I did, and she was spending time with her Creator," Rush confessed.

She and 17-year-old Ashley were among the leaders as LifeWay Christian Stores nationwide held Bible journaling workshops Aug. 22 to show others how to enhance their study of Scripture through art.

"Bible journaling is not simply writing in your Bible," said Lauren Keller, marketing specialist for LifeWay. "It's a way to engage with Scripture, and it can truly transform the way you spend time in the Word."

Participants clustered around tables to experiment with art supplies, testing new

techniques in their Bibles or on the pages of a free Bible journaling workbook provided by the LifeWay store.

"OK, this is pretty neat," said Tina Lillig of La Vergne, Tenn., who attends First Presbyterian Church of Smyrna, Tenn., after using the edge of a credit card to spread bands of yellow and orange acrylic paint across a page.

The credit card trick also impressed Jeannie Hubanks of Rockvale, who attends New Vision Church in Murfreesboro. A seasoned Bible journaler, Hubanks is accustomed to using a brush.

"This will save a lot of time," she said.

In a fast-paced hour, Rush addressed common questions about getting started.

Queasy about writing in a Bible? Create "permission pages" in the front of your Bible to remind yourself it's OK.

Not artistic? Use tracing paper to copy meaningful designs into your Bible, and embellish with stickers or stamps.

Daunted by hand lettering? Turn ordinary cursive handwriting into "faux calligraphy" by thickening downward strokes with a Crayola marker.

Worried your design will bleed through the page? Coat



LEARNING HOW — Instructor Dawn Rush (center) teaches Bible journaling techniques to Sharon Price (left), who attends Trinity Presbyterian Church in Murfreesboro, Tenn.; Kim Swor (standing), who attends World Outreach Church in Murfreesboro; and Amy Hofstra (seated) of Woodbury, who attends New Vision Church in Murfreesboro. (BP photo courtesy of by LifeWay)

the paper with clear primer, and choose the right pens.

Intimidated? Remember why you're journaling. "This is between you and God," Rush said.

Several participants used Bibles designed for journaling, with wide margins for adding notes and illustrations. The store offered giveaways and

discounts on journaling supplies and Bibles, including the Christian Standard Bible (CSB) Notetaking Bible, which releases Sept. 1.

LifeWay Christian Stores held their first nationwide Bible journaling workshop in January 2016, to overwhelming response. About 200 people attended in Murfreesboro

alone, including Dawn and Ashley Rush who showed up with "more tools and supplies than we had here in the store," said Rosa Galarza, assistant store manager.

Since then, LifeWay Stores have offered workshops on a variety of topics. The next nationwide workshop on Sept. 12 will focus on apologetics (how to have discussions about faith).

In addition to the practical training, LifeWay's workshops help people find a Gospel-centered community with other believers, said Keller, who wrote LifeWay's workbook on Bible journaling.

For her, Bible journaling has been a personal journey that began with focused attention to the Word. "If I pull out a single verse and meditate on it, it makes my time with the Lord that much sweeter," she observed.

Bible journaling has also helped Keller memorize Scripture. "This is all about enhancing your personal relationship with the Lord by being more intentional whenever you're reading your Bible," she said.

"It makes you sit down, look at Scripture, and really think about what it means to you."

MS POSITIONS

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'All Saints:' sowing the seeds of faith with contemporary theme

By Phil Boatwright
Correspondent

Sometimes, love is signified through fervent prayer for others. Other times, it is expressed through sacrifice and deeds.

The movie *All Saints*, which premiered Aug. 25 in theaters nationwide, demonstrates the need for all three of these expressions of spiritual love — especially in the context of the refugees we see on the news and read about so often these days.

The faith-based drama is based on the true story of an Episcopal priest ordered by his superiors to shut down his dying parish, but when the young minister senses the Holy Spirit telling him to keep it going the question becomes, "But how, Lord?"

Once the Lord speaks to clergyman Michael Spurlock (John Corbett) he soon meets a group of refugees from Southeast Asia who are looking for work to supplement their meager incomes. They're Christians and farmers, and they want to make use of the land surrounding the church building.

An idea emerges: a harvested crop to supply the refugees' needs as well as income that will pay off the parish's mortgage.

At first, no-one in the congregation's hierarchy likes the idea but seeds (literal and metaphorical) nevertheless are planted and, despite numerous ordeals, God provides a bountiful harvest.



BOATWRIGHT

Matters concerning refugees and immigrants are certainly in the headlines these days, and they often get conjoined with political issues. This film deals with the struggles of those escaping horrors that surrounded them in their homeland, but I didn't find a political element to the story.

Rather, its message concerns people drawing closer to each other through God's love and our deeds.

All Saints is rated PG. I found nothing objectionable in this release from Sony and Affirm Films. I think the picture is an important one for our time because it addresses themes such as bonding and working with our fellow man, sacrificing for others, and God's love in times of turmoil.

It has a compelling storyline, resonating dialogue, and a perceptive performance by Corbett.

I love it when a faith-based film of this quality opens in cinemas that normally screen superhero fantasies, crude comedies, or Oscar-contenders heavy on R-rated content. *All Saints* offers us an opportunity to witness for Christ by bringing loved ones and friends to a movie.

For further information on theater locations and times, go to allsaintsmovie.com/theaters.

In addition to writing for Baptist Press, Boatwright reviews films at moviereporter.com and is a regular contributor to *The World and Everything In It*, a weekly radio program from WORLD News Group. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press. Edited for style.

HARVEY

cont. from p. 1

not self-deploy but works in partnership with our Baptist brothers and sisters in the affected state. MBDR is packed and ready, awaiting their instructions.

The full statement by MBDR, which includes actions that can be taken by Mississippi Baptist churches and individuals at the present time, can be viewed at mbcb.org.

In the immediate aftermath of the storm, Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBDRL) expected some of the hardest-hit regions to be accessible only to search and rescue teams.

Southern Baptists of Texas Convention Disaster Relief (SBTC DR) teams reported they were still in a holding pattern as flooding closed numerous roads. Many of the rivers had not yet crested to their expected flood levels. As that happens, the number of road closings is expected to go up, making it even more difficult to send recovery units.

Daniel White of the SBTC DR team said, "I have been hearing reports from different people that this may be worse than [Hurricane] Katrina. It may be the largest national disaster in U.S. history. I have never seen anything like this in my time in disaster relief."

Texas Baptist Men (TBM) has faced similar challenges getting teams into heavily flooded areas. Terry Henderson, TBM's disaster relief director, echoed White's sentiments regarding the significance of the storm.



EARLY DUTY — A Texas Baptist Men crew feeds Hurricane Harvey emergency workers in the Houston, Texas, area at 5:30 a.m., before moving on to another area hit hard by the largest hurricane to strike the U.S. since Hurricane Katrina slammed into the Mississippi Gulf Coast on Aug. 29, 2005. (BP photo courtesy of Texas Baptist Men)

Donations will go to hurricane response

Financial donations may be given through Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief (MBDR) and will go directly to support victim recovery in partnership with local Baptist churches and associations. Donations may be made on-line at mbcb.org/giving/. Checks made payable to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, designated "Hurricane Relief" on the memo line, may be mailed to MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

At the present time, MBDR has no provisions for in-kind donations (clothing, furniture, etc.).

"I would compare this to Katrina or bigger. Our response is running smoother thanks to new technology," he said, "but this storm will probably affect a larger area than Katrina did."

"There are some events that mark a time in history for generations to come," said Kevin Ezell, president of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board in Alpharetta, Ga., where SBDRL is headquartered. "I believe Hurricane Harvey is one of those events and Southern Baptists will be known by the way we respond."

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Revivals & Homecomings

► Pleasant Hill Church, Ashland: Homecoming, Sept. 3; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by potluck meal; Jeff Ginn, speaker. Revival, Sept. 11 - 13; 7 p.m. nightly; Alvin Whitehead, speaker; Anthony Mitchell, music.

B i B L i O C i P H E R

LNC FTBOO PVLNCTCLN, LNC ESUPCT

EBACLN; DKL LNC PUTA UE UKT FUA

ONBSS OLBRA EUT CJCT.

VOBVBN EUTLM: CVFNL

Clue: F = G

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark 5:34

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)
If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically

via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. **Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted.** Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Reluctance • Exodus 3:4-14; 4:13-16

The first time I heard the song "Moses" was at a live concert with Travis Cottrell. The story, set to music, captures the conversation between God and Moses. The song begins with: "Moses, I've chosen you to be My man; Moses, over there in Egypt land; Moses, I've chosen you to work for Me; Moses, I've chosen you to set My people free (written by Ken Medema, available on YouTube)." And Moses replied, "Not me, Lord."

Before we look at Moses' reluctance, let's begin with a short synopsis of the book of Exodus. It is the second book of the Pentateuch, an extension of Genesis, and written by Moses (Mark 12:26). The Exodus ("going out") took place around 1445 BC. The first 18 chapters focus on God's deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt. Chapters 19 - 40 revolve around the theme of God's glory at Mt. Sinai. "The Book of Exodus gives us a model of redemption and a model of mission" (Tony Merida, Exalting Jesus in Exodus).

From the seventy descendants of Jacob (Ex. 1:5 ESV) the nation of Israel multiplied (see Gen. 35:11) and grew strong. At the end of chapter one the new Egyptian king is dealing with an overwhelming dread of the Israelites. He tried numerous unsuccessful attempts to

curtail the population growth by making them slaves, having the midwives kill the sons, and then commanding every son to be thrown into the Nile. Yet, through God's providence, Moses lived. Chapter two unfolds with the story of the first forty years of Moses' life (name means "to draw out"), his education and the killing of an Egyptian. He then flees to Midian, marries and becomes a shepherd. Concurrently the Israelites were groaning and crying out to God. "God saw the people of Israel—and God knew" (Ex. 2:25).

Meanwhile on God's timetable, Moses is tending the flock near Horeb, known as the mountain of God. The LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire (representative of God's holy presence) within a bush. But, the fire did not consume the bush. Moses notices and turns to inspect closer. Then from the bush comes God's voice calling Moses by name. He

answers, "Here I am" and instructions are given to him to take off his sandals; because he was standing on holy ground. And if Moses needed further explanation, God's voice proclaimed "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob" (Ex. 3:1-6). Is it any wonder Moses hid his face with reverent fear?

Now that God has Moses' attention, it is time to brief him on what's been happening.

As you read verses 7-9 notice the phrases: "I have surely seen," "I know their sufferings," "I have come down," and "I have seen

the oppression." Then in verse 10, comes Moses' assignment, "Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

But, the first words out of his mouth, "Who am I that I should go..." Was he thinking about all of his inadequacies

and failures? While pondering Moses seems to have a further thought and asks, "If I go who am I going to say sent me?" In other words, by whose authority am I being sent? "God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.'" And He said, "Say this to the people of Israel, I AM (Yahweh) has sent me to you." (Also see the book of John for the "I AM" Sayings of Jesus.)

Remember Moses excuses: Who am I? What shall I say? What if they don't believe me? Remember I'm not eloquent, slow of speech and tongue, and would you please send someone else! In chapter four, God gives Moses a demonstration of His power and authority. Then God's anger burned against Moses because of his doubt and questioning (vs. 14). Next, He assures Moses He would supply the mouthpiece, his brother Aaron. And so with staff in hand the journey begins...

The final words to the song "Moses": "What do you hold in your hand today; to what or to whom are you bound; are you willing to give it to God right now; give it up; let it go; throw it down." God calls and empowers people to serve Him. Are you reluctant or "Yes me, Lord"?

Leathers is a member of First Church, Madison.



Explore the Bible

with Laura Leathers

Satan • Revelation 12:7-12

Does it seem almost strange to spend a Sunday School lesson studying Satan? Yet on careful reflection, it seems to be an obvious need in preparation for the spiritual war atmosphere we are living in here in America today. C. S. Lewis in the Screwtape Letters identifies two wrong attitudes many people (sometime even Bible believing Christian people) often have about the devil. He says, "There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can often hold about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them."

If we are to study biblical teachings about "Satan" perhaps we should begin by seeking a biblical definition of "Satan." Verse 9 in today's focal passage (Revelation 12:7-12) first refers to the great dragon and quickly identifies this great dragon as "the ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the one who deceives the whole world."

"The ancient serpent" is a clear reference to the Genesis account of creation and the entrance of sin into God's perfect world. Genesis' third chapter begins, "Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD had made," Genesis 3:1 (NIV). Then, Moses tells of the lies the serpent told Eve to get her to sin for the first time by directly disobeying God. Then, immediately

Eve turned and encouraged her husband, Adam, to disobey God, too. Satan has been the enemy of mankind from the very beginning of time.

In John, Jesus taught us that, "He [Satan] was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he speaks from his own nature, because he is a liar and the father of lies," John 8:44 (CSB).

We know that Satan "is a liar and the father of lies." When we break the ninth commandment, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor," Exodus 20:16 (KJV), we become children of the devil. Jesus said it this way, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do," John 8:44a (KJV).

But all the way back in Genesis God told Adam and Eve that the serpent that lied to them would be defeated by Christ. "The LORD God said to the serpent, 'because you have done this, you are cursed...' And I will put enmity (open hostility)

between you and the woman, And between your seed (offspring) and her Seed; He shall [fatally] bruise your head, and you shall [only] bruise His heel." Genesis 3:14-15 (AMP).

Just like Genesis, the first book of the Bible, stresses Christ's victory and Satan's defeat so does the last book of the Bible, Revelation. The Revelation in Chapter 12 verses 7-10 (CSB) says:

"Then war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. (Satan) and his (demons) also fought, but he (the dragon) could not prevail, and there was no place for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was thrown out—the ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the one who deceives the whole world. ... Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say, 'The salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have now come, because the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before God day and night, has been thrown down.'"

Bible Studies for Life

with Don Hicks



The Bible clearly portrays several truths about Satan:

1. He is a real.
2. He has great but limited power.
3. He is an enemy of God, Jesus (God's one and only begotten Son) and Man (God's highest creation, made in the image of God).
4. He is a created being with a beginning and will end up in Hell which God made for the devil and his angels. See Matthew 25:41.
5. God the Holy Spirit, God the Son, and God the Father win every contest with that old serpent and have already totally defeated the devil and his demons.

More importantly the Bible clearly states:

1. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, to day, and for ever," Hebrews 13:8 (KJV).
2. "He (Jesus the Word) was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not," John 1:1 (KJV).
3. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life," John 3:16 (KJV).

Hicks is Associational Missions Director for Jasper Association.

HOMICIDE

cont. from p. 1

Strunk did not disclose the cause of death. New's car was also missing, according to reports.

New was a charter member of the Denham Street Church

and "took pride in serving her Lord as she continued her support of the church and the new pastor," according to her obituary.

As the church's custodian, she often cleaned the building on Thursdays and was perhaps doing so when the murder occurred, WKYT reported.

The church of about 250 worshippers is handling the tragedy "hourly," Griffith said. "It's just been a real rollercoaster for many of them. It's just been an up and down ordeal."

Griffith described New as a beloved member of the church that her late husband, J.S. New, founded in January 1973 as a

mission of Slate Street Church in Somerset. She remained active at her husband's pastorate after his death in 2012.

Mike Correll, Somerset Police Department public information officer, described the congregation as "a tightly knit church" in a "tightly knit community."

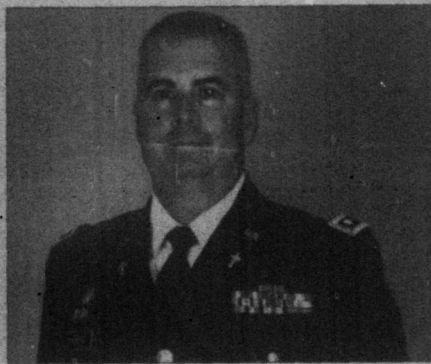
"You just want to pray for them, pray for the family and pray for this entire community that's been affected by this," he told WKYT. "It's a sad situation."

No arrests had been made in the murder, but officers were following leads. New was buried Aug. 28 in Southern Oaks Cemetery in Somerset.

Just for the Record



EAST COLUMBIA CHURCH, COLUMBIA, recently recognized Jeane Willoughby for 63 years of service as organist as well as for her leadership in the community. She is shown with her husband Johnny.



CH (Lt. Colonel) Steve Yarber has been selected to work at the US Army Chief of Chaplain's office in Washington, DC.



Jane Goode and Joy McCullough, **FIRST CHURCH, NEW ALBANY**, have retired teaching Acteen girls after 60 years of combined teaching. Goode has taught for over 40 years; McCullough has taught for 25.



ARLINGTON CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO, recently held its missions group recognition. Shown are the participants and leaders. Matthew Green, pastor.

The WMU of **EAST COLUMBIA CHURCH, COLUMBIA**, recently presented food and clothing items collected from the church to Kay Bennett at the Baptist Friendship House in New Orleans. Shown are the ECBC WMU ladies with Bennett.



JOHNSON CREEK CHURCH, Stateline, recently ordained Scott Wallace to the gospel ministry, with Jimmy Holcomb officiating. Over 80 friends and family members were in attendance. He is shown here with his wife and children.



HATHORN CHURCH, COVINGTON/ JEFFERSON DAVIS ASSOCIATION, honored pastor Wade Barnes for 10 years of service.



BEULAH CHURCH, DECATUR, held a baby dedication August 27. Pictured left to right are Mack Henry Ferguson, his mother Tiffany Ferguson, his father Richie Ferguson and in front is big brother, Maddux. Gary Rivers, pastor.



NEW LIBERTY CHURCH, MORTON, held their annual VBS in July. The youth class averaged 33 participants. The youth worked at the We Care Mission Center in Morton, assembled hygiene packs for several different ministries in Scott County, packed backpacks for Morton schools, and made 100 lunch bags to be handed out.

HOPEWELL CHURCH, LITTLE ROCK, provided a meal and devotional to the Newton County High School football team, dance team, and cheerleaders Aug. 17.

